

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for fabricating a bottle-shaped trench capacitor, comprising the steps of:

forming a trench in a substrate;
filling a lower portion of the trench with a first conductive layer surrounded by a doped layer;
forming a conformable insulating layer overlying the substrate and an inner surface of the upper portion of the trench to cover the first conductive layer and the doped layer;
performing a heat treatment on the substrate to form a doping region in the substrate near the doped layer to serve as a buried bottom plate;
anisotropically etching the insulating layer to form a collar insulating layer over a sidewall of an upper portion of the trench;
successively removing the first conductive layer and the doped layer using the collar insulating layer as a mask to expose the surface of the doping region, wherein the doped layer is removed by vapor hydrofluoric acid;
etching a portion of the exposed doping region to form a bottle-shaped trench;
successively forming a conformable rugged polysilicon layer and a conformable capacitor dielectric layer in the lower portion of the trench; and
filling the lower portion of the trench with a second conductive layer to serve as a top plate.

Claim 2 (original): The method as claimed in claim 1, further successively forming a third conductive layer and a fourth conductive layer overlying the second conductive layer.

Claim 3 (original): The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the third and fourth conductive layers are doped polysilicon layers.

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Claim 4 (original): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first conductive layer is a polysilicon layer.

Claim 5 (original): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the doped layer is an arsenic silicate glass (ASG) layer.

Claim 6 (canceled)

Claim 7 (original): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the insulating layer is tetraethyl orthosilicate (TEOS) oxide.

Claim 8 (original): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the heat treatment is performed at about 900 to 1100°C.

Claim 9 (original): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the portion of the exposed doping region is etched by NH₄OH.

Claim 10 (original): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the second conductive layer is a doped polysilicon.

Claim 11 (original): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the capacitor dielectric layer comprises a silicon nitride layer.

Claim 12 (original): The method as claimed in claim 1, further performing a gas phase doping (GPD) after the rugged polysilicon layer is formed.

Claim 13 (currently amended): A method for fabricating a bottle-shaped trench capacitor, comprising the steps of:

providing a substrate covered by a masking layer having an opening therein;
etching the substrate under the opening to form a trench therein;
filling a lower portion of the trench with a polysilicon layer surrounded by a doped silicon oxide layer;

forming a conformable insulating layer overlying the masking layer and an inner surface of the upper portion of the trench to cover the polysilicon layer and the doped silicon oxide layer;

performing a heat treatment on the substrate to form a doping region in the substrate near the doped silicon oxide layer to serve as a buried bottom plate;

anisotropically etching the insulating layer to form a collar insulating layer over a sidewall of an upper portion of the trench;

successively removing the polysilicon layer and the doped silicon oxide layer using the collar insulating layer as a mask to expose the surface of the doping region, wherein the doped silicon oxide layer is removed by vapor hydrofluoric acid;

etching a portion of the exposed doping region to form a bottle-shaped trench;

successively forming a conformable rugged polysilicon layer and a conformable capacitor dielectric layer in the lower portion of the trench;

filling the lower portion of the trench with a doped polysilicon layer to serve as a top plate;

successively forming a second doped polysilicon layer and a third doped polysilicon layer overlying the first doped polysilicon layer.

Claim 14 (original): The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the masking layer is composed of a pad oxide layer and an overlying silicon nitride layer.

Claim 15 (original): The method as claimed in claim 14, before filling the polysilicon layer, further comprising the steps of:

isotropically etching the pad oxide layer to form a recess with a predetermined depth;
and
filling the recess with silicon nitride.

Claim 16 (original): The method as claimed in claim 15, wherein the pad oxide layer is etched by buffer hydrofluoric (BHF) acid.

Claim 17 (original): The method as claimed in claim 15, wherein the predetermined depth is about 15 to 40Å.

Claim 18 (original): The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the doped silicon oxide layer is an arsenic silicate glass (ASG) layer.

Claim 19 (canceled)

Claim 20 (original): The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the insulating layer is tetraethyl orthosilicate (TEOS) oxide.

Claim 21 (original): The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the heat treatment is performed at about 900 to 1100°C.

Claim 22 (original): The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the portion of the exposed doping region is etched by NH4OH.

Claim 23 (original): The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the capacitor dielectric layer comprises a silicon nitride layer.

Claim 24 (original): The method as claimed in claim 13, further performing a gas phase doping (GPD) after the rugged polysilicon layer is formed.